

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AGRE-00 /088 W  
-----014614 300520Z /10

R 280335Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9619  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1027

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, LA  
SUBJECT: CONCERN OF LPDR OFFICIALS OVER REFUGEE PROBLEMS

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM A NORMALLY RELIABLE SOURCE DESCRIBING DISCUSSIONS WHICH REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE DURING A LARGE SEMINAR MEETING FOR TOP LEVEL CADRE LAST WEEK IN VIENTIANE. THE SEMINAR REPORTEDLY WAS ATTENDED BY BETWEEN FOUR AND FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE AND FEATURED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE NOUHAH PHOUMSAVAN AS THE "KEYNOTE SPEAKER."

2. NOUHAH REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED DEEP AND SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE MAGNITUDE AND THE REASONS FOR THE CURRENT REFUGEE FLOW. HE CITED A CASE LAST WEEK WHERE OVER HALF OF A SMALL VILLAGE, MORE THAN 40 PEOPLE, HAD FLED TO THAILAND. ALL OF THESE PEOPLE WERE SIMPLE FARMERS AND PEASANTS. THIS WAS NOT AN ISOLATED CASE, AND NOUHAH WANTED TO  
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KNOW WHY SUCH PEOPLE, WHO, ACCORDING TO HIM, HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT AND WHO WERE THE BACKBONE OF THE PRESENT REGIME, WOULD WANT TO FLEE. HE STATED THAT IT WAS APPARENT THAT ABUSES, SUCH AS ARBITRARY AND UNJUSTIFIED ARRESTS, WERE OCCURRING AND THAT THEY MUST BE STOPPED.

3. IN ADDITION, IT APPEARED THAT SOME CADRE HAD ACQUIRED MOTOR VEHICLES, REFRIGERATORS, AND OTHER CONSUMER ITEMS. INVESTIGATIONS WERE TO BE MADE TO DETERMINE HOW THESE ITEMS HAD BEEN OBTAINED TO SEE IF CORRUPTION OR EXTORTION HAD BEEN INVOLVED.

4. COMMENT: IT IS MILDLY ENCOURAGING THAT THE LPDR AUTHORITIES SEEM TO VIEW THE REFUGEE PROBLEM WITH CONCERN AND ARE ATTEMPTING SOME MEASURES TO DEAL WITH IT OTHER THAN SHOOTING REFUGEES ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE MEKONG. WE THINK IT UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE BASIC UNDERLYING

FACTORS BEHIND THE REFUGEE OUTFLOW(I.E., THE COLLECTIVIZATION OF AGRICULTURE, THE LARGE VIETNAMESE PRESENCE, EXTREMELY POOR LIVING STANDARDS, FORCED LABOR, POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION, AND THE LACK OF PERSONAL FREEDOMS AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS) WILL BE IDENTIFIED OR DEALT WITH.  
ROBERTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978VIENTI01027  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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